

## Labeling Organic Products

There are four categories of labeling under the USDA organic program. They are designed to help consumers

know the exact organic content of the food they buy. The presence of the USDA organic seal also tells you that a product is at least 95% organic. As an example:

- **"100% ORGANIC CEREAL"** must be made with 100% organic ingredients.
- **"ORGANIC"** cereal must be made with 95% - 100% organic ingredients.
- **CEREAL "MADE WITH ORGANIC INGREDIENTS"** must contain at least 70% organic ingredients.
- Cereal made with **LESS THAN 70% ORGANIC INGREDIENTS** may list specific organically produced ingredients on the side panel but may not make any organic claims on the front of the package.

For information about organic labeling go to:

[www.ams.usda.gov/nop](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop)



## To Find Out More...

For a list of Nevada-certified organic farmers and processors, or for more information about Nevada's organic certification program contact:

The Nevada Dept. of Agriculture  
350 Capitol Hill Avenue  
Reno, Nevada 89502  
775.688.1182 ext. 243  
[rbradley@govmail.state.nv.us](mailto:rbradley@govmail.state.nv.us) or  
[pgmckie@govmail.state.nv.us](mailto:pgmckie@govmail.state.nv.us)

Or visit our website:  
[www.agri.state.nv.us/organic](http://www.agri.state.nv.us/organic)

The USDA National Organic Program website is:  
[www.ams.usda.gov/nop](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop)

For more information about Nevada's Farmers Markets:  
775.746.5024

## Consumer Guide

# NEVADA CERTIFIED ORGANIC

**Farm Fresh From Nevada's Own Growers**



**Nevada Certified Organic Program**





# Nevada Certified Organic

## Nevada and the National Organic Standards

### What Does Organic Mean?

"Organic" is used to describe an agricultural product that has been produced without the use of: synthetic fertilizers and pesticides; growth regulators; artificial preservatives or additives; irradiation; sewage sludge; or genetic engineering. Organic also refers to the manner in which agricultural products are processed, packaged and transported. Land on which organic products are to be grown must be free of prohibited materials for three years before becoming eligible for organic certification.

### How Do I Know a Product is Organic?

After October 21, 2002 agricultural products labeled as "organic" must meet federal requirements. The U.S.

Department of Agriculture's National Organic Standards require that food labeled as "organic" or "certified organic" meets strict production guidelines whether it is grown in the U.S. or imported from other countries. Farms and processors with sales of organic products that total less than \$5,000 per year are exempt from certification. They must still produce and handle their products according to the U.S.D.A. standards, but *cannot* sell their products as "certified organic".

### Are There Organic Farms in Nevada?

Yes! The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is accredited by U.S.D.A. to certify organic farmers & processors. NDA-certified organic farms and processors are inspected annually to ensure compliance with organic production and processing procedures.

- The best place to find locally grown organic produce is at area farmers' markets. These are held around the state depending on the growing season. Check with the Nevada Farmer's Market Association for a market near you.
- Call ahead and visit a farm. Some give tours or allow you to pick your own produce, and some offer Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) subscriptions.
- A list of NDA-certified organic farmers & processors is available on line: [www.agri.state.nv.us/organic](http://www.agri.state.nv.us/organic).

When you buy NDA-certified organically grown and processed agricultural products, you support local businesses, small farmers, and the local economy. It's your chance to enjoy locally-grown fresh-from-the-farm fruit and vegetables with quality and flavor.



Look for the Nevada Department of Agriculture organic program seal on products certified here in Nevada. The seal is your assurance that the organic

product you are buying is certified to National Organic Program standards. Nevada producers and handlers have passed all the qualifications—set by federal law—to market their products as "organic".

### Does "Natural" Mean "Organic"?

"Natural" and "Organic" do not mean the same thing. Only food labeled as "organic" has been certified as meeting USDA organic standards.

Other truthful claims such as free-range, hormone-free, and natural can still appear on food labels. However, they do not have the same meaning as "organic".

"No spray", "pesticide free" and other similar statements can be made by anyone without verification and should not be confused with something having been produced organically. Synthetic fertilizers, fungicides and even insecticides might still have been used.